



BurningManEIS, BLM_NV <blm_nv_burningmaneis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Burning Man Event SRP EIS

2 messages

Carol Shank <cshank@pershingcounty.net>

Wed, May 1, 2019 at 7:30 AM

Reply-To: Carol Shank <cshank@pershingcounty.net>

To: blm_nv_burningmaneis@blm.gov

As I have stated in previous comments, I have concerns with regards to the population increase request from Burning Man:

1. Pershing County does not have adequate law enforcement to safely respond to calls for assistance and/or criminal activity currently. Outside law enforcement officers are brought in from other counties to assist during the Burning Man event. Even with this additional help there is still not enough law enforcement to protect and serve the current number of participants let alone an increase in participants.
2. The event "technically" starts two months prior to the actual Burning Man 7 day period and ends over a month afterwards. There are up to ten thousand volunteers and vendors setting up prior to the event and law enforcement and services are required as needed. Our law enforcement has had to respond to crimes and even a death on the playa prior to the start of the official "event".
3. Dust is a major environmental issue. Playa dust can be seen all the way down I-80 when the participants leave the playa. Additionally, participants are known to actively ride their bicycles and walk directly into the dust storms without proper protection - this cannot be healthy. In years to come when these individuals have breathing and lung problems who will they look to for compensation - Burning Man - probably not. They will look to the federal government (BLM) and Pershing County.
4. Burning Man organizers want very little to no oversight in its activities which leads to crimes and personal violations going unreported. Pershing County receives complaints and crimes reported months and months after the event when there is very little opportunity to collect evidence or collaborate what the victims are claiming. During the event, Burning Man Rangers deliberately do their best to keep crimes/violations from being adequately reported and at times have hampered the collection of evidence.
5. There is no accurate reporting of participants - peak population is currently counted as those individuals with tickets. I understand that this will be changed so that peak population will count everyone on the playa including volunteers, vendors, etc. Who is going to do the count? The count needs to be done by an uninterested party to make sure that it is accurate. I am confident that in the past there have been more "ticket" holders on the playa than reported. Additionally, as BLM is aware there have also been reported violations of "over population".
6. Roads - As the population increases there will be more individuals using Jungo Road and other county roads to get into the event. Currently the main access to the event is so clogged with traffic that participants have to wait hours and hours to gain entry. With an increase in population, more entry points will be needed utilizing all access roads to the event. Pershing County's road maintenance budget cannot handle additional paving and repairs to gain access to the playa.
7. There have been several fires over the past few years that have either necessitated the closing of the event - egress and access. In a disaster, whether man-made or nature caused, there is no possible way to evacuate and protect the participants.

These are the main concerns that I have and I realize that some of them are already being addressed. Thank you for considering them in the EIS.

CAROL



"Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose."

Carol A. Shank

PERSHING COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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BurningManEIS, BLM_NV <blm_nv_burningmaneis@blm.gov>
To: Rebecca Andres <randres@blm.gov>, Ester McCullough <emccullo@blm.gov>

Wed, May 1, 2019 at 10:27 AM

Pershing Co. comments

----- Forwarded message -----
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To: <blm_nv_burningmaneis@blm.gov>

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